



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, September 14, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports on the damage caused by Typhoon Talim in Miyakojima, Okinawa, saying that the power is out in 80% of the city. TBS said the typhoon is expected to hit the Kyushu region on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin says U.S. can stop trade with any country

NHK reported that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said in an interview with FOX TV on Wednesday that although he welcomes the latest UNSC resolution against North Korea, further pressure is necessary. He was quoted as saying: "We can stop trade with any country that does business with North Korea. We are going to be careful in using those tools, but the President is committed. We will use economic sanctions to bring North Korea to the table." The network said the Secretary also stressed that China, the largest exporter to the U.S., could be subject to sanctions, adding that he apparently urged China and other nations to review their relations with North Korea. The network added that a senior Treasury Department official also explained during a congressional hearing held a day earlier that the U.S. will completely exclude brokers that are engaged in illegal business with North Korea from the financial system and shut down their financial flow.

U.S., North Korea hold informal talks

NHK reported that a senior member of North Korea's foreign ministry met informally with a former senior USG official in Switzerland. The network said North Korea's Deputy Director General for North American Affairs Bureau Choe Kang Il attended an international conference on security in Northeast Asia held from Sept. 11 to 13 in Switzerland and informally met with former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Evans Revere, who also attended the conference. The network said

although the details of the conversation have not been disclosed, they apparently exchanged views on the latest UN Security Council resolution and North Korea's nuclear and missile development.

- [North Korea may soon complete new submarine, source](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Pyongyang stockpiling gas 'for war'](#) (The Japan News)
- [Trump dusts off 'pivot to Asia' with November tour](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe attends ceremony for new Indian railway using Japan technology](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe in India for talks with Modi, new high-speed train ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's foreign minister maps out Middle Eastern detour to US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Symposium highlights N. Korea abduction issue](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Int'l net encircling N. Korea tightened with speedy adoption of new sanctions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Int'l community must cooperate to guide N. Korea from destructive course](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials' reaction to North Korea's sixth nuclear test](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 13, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe's Constitution amendment idea "difficult": Komeito head](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Another DP Lower House member bolts party](#) (Mainichi)
- [DP bans members from participating in political seminars outside the party](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Upper House members create new group within Aso faction](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nakayama reelected leader of Party for Japanese Kokoro](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Voters split over how to deal with N. Korean provocations, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan pushes for expedited talks on 'TPP 11'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Toshiba to talk intensively to Japan-U.S.-S. Korea group on chip unit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP, Komeito to deliberate bill to counter gambling addiction before turning to casino implementation bill](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nuclear regulator defers giving safety OK for idle Tepco reactors](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan needs to present unified front in four ongoing trade negotiations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan resumes Idaho potato imports for 1st time in 11 years](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Regulatory Reform Promotion Council to make more airwaves available to private sector](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kyoto plans minimum 200 yen per night lodging tax](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to discuss new areas of growth, including IoT, AI](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

- [Japan refuels U.S. missile defense ships under new security laws](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ishiba calls on gov't to regularly confirm effectiveness of U.S. nuclear umbrella](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japanese firms fall behind in joining F-35A production](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Relocation of Futenma inside Okinawa due to "political reasons in Japan," says ex-U.S. defense secretary](#) (Asahi)

EDUCATION

- [Japan education spending worst in OECD](#) (The Japan News)
- [OECD survey: Japan's teachers work more hours but teach fewer](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Counterfeit drugs increasing in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on a recent incident in which drugs for hepatitis C treatment that cost about 1.5 million yen per bottle were found to be counterfeit even though they were properly procured from a pharmacy. The program said the incident came as a shock to patients and the pharmaceutical industry in Japan, explaining that the number of counterfeit drugs is increasing in Japan. The program said many of the drugs that can be purchased on the Internet turn out to be fake, and numerous crime syndicates around the world are targeting Japan.

- [53% of female managers say there has been no change in women's empowerment, poll](#) (Nikkei)

Okinawa Local Press

Former Defense Secretary Perry comments on Futenma relocation

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged their interview with former Defense Secretary William Perry that was conducted on Wednesday in Okinawa. Perry served as defense secretary when the U.S. agreed in the 1996 SACO Final Report to relocate the Futenma Air Station. Saying that he is disappointed that Futenma hasn't been returned yet, the former defense chief offered an apology for the situation. While saying that the relocation site doesn't necessarily have to be in Okinawa, Perry expressed the view that even though the 1996 agreement might not be the best solution, it is better than other options from the viewpoint of the functions and deterrence of the U.S. military. Concerning the GOJ's position that Henoko is "the only option" for relocating the Futenma base, Perry stated that he believes that Tokyo's decision on the relocation site was made for political reasons rather than security or military ones. He added that the U.S. does not have the right to decide the relocation site.

- [Onaga offended by U.S. view that "Henoko is a domestic issue"](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)